

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for a player to play a casino bonus game, the player placing a wager to play a gaming machine containing the casino bonus game, the method comprising:

randomly entering the casino bonus game from play of the gaming machine,

randomly displaying on a display in the casino bonus game a compound hidden pattern, the compound hidden pattern uncovered with a minimum number of player inputs based on ~~optimum~~ optimal strategy,

receiving the player inputs from the player during play of the casino bonus game to uncover the compound hidden pattern, the received inputs from the player limited to a given number,

after each received input, displaying whether a part of the compound hidden pattern is uncovered,

based on the aforesaid part of the compound hidden pattern displayed ~~[[of]]~~ in the ~~aforesaid~~ display, using strategy by the player to provide the next player input,

awarding ~~[[an]]~~ a bonus amount to the player based on the number of received inputs used to uncover the compound hidden pattern, the largest ~~bonus~~ amount awarded to the player occurring with the minimum number of received inputs from the player using said optimal strategy to uncover the compound hidden pattern, the smallest bonus amount awarded to the player occurring with the given number of received inputs from the player to uncover the compound hidden pattern,

ending the casino bonus game in response to awarding the bonus amount.

Claims 37-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim 36 wherein the largest bonus amount awarded is a progressive jackpot.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim 36 wherein the bonus amount awarded is a free game.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method for a player to play a casino bonus game, the player placing a wager to play a gaming machine containing the casino bonus game, the method comprising:

randomly entering the casino bonus game from play of the gaming machine,

randomly displaying on a display in the casino bonus game a compound hidden pattern, the compound hidden pattern uncovered with a minimum number of player inputs based on ~~optimum~~ optimal strategy,

receiving the player inputs from the player during play of the casino bonus game to uncover the compound hidden pattern, the received inputs from the player limited to a given number,

after each received input, displaying whether ~~all of~~ a part of the compound hidden pattern is uncovered,

based on the aforesaid part of the compound hidden pattern displayed ~~[[of]]~~ in the ~~aforesaid~~ display, using strategy by the player to provide the next player input,

awarding ~~[[an]]~~ a bonus amount to the player in a range of amounts, the largest bonus amount in the range awarded when the minimum number of received inputs from the player uncovers the compound hidden pattern, the smallest bonus amount in the range awarded when the given number of received inputs from the player uncovers the compound hidden pattern, the player with ~~optimum~~ said optimal strategy uncovering the compound hidden pattern using the least minimum number of received inputs.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 wherein the largest bonus amount is a progressive jackpot.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 wherein the bonus amount awarded is a free game.

Claims 44-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 further comprising:
ending the casino bonus game when the given number of received player inputs occurs without the player ~~uncovers~~ uncovering the compound hidden pattern.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 further comprising:
entering play of the casino bonus game from ~~[[a]]~~ the gaming machine before receiving player inputs from the player.

Claim 48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (currently amended): The casino game of claim 41 further comprising:
playing another casino bonus game only when the compound hidden pattern is uncovered by the player in the casino bonus game.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The method of claim 49 further comprising:
always awarding the player in the play of the other casino bonus game.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of claim 49 further comprising:
ending the casino bonus game after play of the other casino bonus game ends.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A strategy-based casino bonus game method for a player of a gaming machine, the player placing a wager to play the gaming machine, the method comprising:
randomly entering the strategy-based casino bonus game from play of the ~~underlying casino game~~ gaming machine.

playing the strategy-based casino bonus game in at most a given number of player inputs,

prior to receiving a next player input, displaying whether a successful game result is obtained in the strategy-based casino game for a prior player input,

awarding at least one bonus award to the player for each successful game result during play of the strategy-based casino bonus game, play of the strategy-based casino bonus game having on overall game solution with a least number of received inputs when the player uses optimal strategy,

ending the strategy-based casino bonus game when the given number of player inputs have occurred without obtaining an overall game ~~solution~~, solution.

~~awarding the player based on the number of player inputs used to obtain the overall game solution.~~

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of claim 52 further comprising:
awarding the player when entering the casino bonus game.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method of claim 52 in which awarding the player when the overall game result solution is obtained further at least comprises:
playing a game,
awarding the player in the game.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A strategy-based casino bonus game method for a player of a gaming machine, the player placing a wager to play the gaming machine, the method comprising:

randomly entering the strategy-based casino bonus game from play of the underlying casino game gaming machine, the casino bonus game having a solution,

awarding the player a first bonus award when entering the strategy-based casino bonus game,

playing [[a]] the strategy-based bonus game in a given number of player inputs,
prior to receiving a next player input, displaying whether a successful game result is obtained in the strategy-based casino bonus game for a prior player input,

awarding at least one second bonus award to the player for obtaining the solution during play of the strategy-based bonus game, play of the strategy-based casino bonus game having the overall game solution with a least number of received inputs when the player uses optimal strategy,

ending the strategy-based casino bonus game when the given number of player inputs have occurred without obtaining the solution,

playing a second casino bonus game when the solution is obtained by the player in the strategy-based bonus game.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of claim 55 further comprising:

awarding the player based on the number of player inputs used to obtain the solution.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of claim 56 wherein the solution comprises a plurality of individual hidden patterns.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of claim 57 further comprises awarding the player for uncovering each individual hidden pattern.